***Statement** II*

*Population of Leopards in Rajaji National Park Landscape**

SI.No.	Name of the Forest area	Number of Leopards		
		2001	2003	2005
1.	Rajaji National Park	236	208	214
2	Haridwar Forest Division	58	58	75
3.	Lansdown Forest Division	47	45	63
4.	Dehradun Forest Division	23	33	61
Total of the Landscape		364	344	413

* Rajaji National Park Landscape also includes the Lansdown, Haridwar and Dehradun Forest Divisions, as these forest divisions are adjacent to the Park and Wild Animals move freely irrespective of the administrative boundaries.

Rural backyard Poultry Development

*515. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a new scheme *viz* Rural Backyard Poultry Development;

(b) if so, the salient features of the schemes;

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the contribution of the organized sector by promoting backyard poultry particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed scheme 'Rural Backyard Poultry Development' envisages supporting small farmer and landless labour families to take up backyard poultry activity based on a three-tier concept of State Implementing Agencies (SIA), mother units and beneficiaries with backward and forward linkages and involvement of NGOs. Training will be an important feature of the scheme. Marketing of the surplus produce is expected to be ensured through proposed marketing outlets. The beneficiary and mother units are proposed to be assisted by way of subsidy and loan components.

(c) The scheme is expected to be launched after receiving due approval in 2006-07.

(d) The Government has provided a financial assistance of Rs. 64.46 crores to upgrade a total of 131 State Poultry Farms in the country from 1999-2000 till March 2006. This includes an amount of Rs. 47.92 lakhs provided to the State of Andhra Pradesh in 2004-05 for strengthening District Poultry Farm, Mamnoor, Warangal District. These farms multiply and distribute birds suitable for backyard poultry.

Jobs to Sports Person in Railway

†*516. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt talented sports persons by providing jobs to them in the Railways or by giving them training after constituting a sports cell in view of Commonwealth Games to be organized in 2010 in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Railway Sports Promotion Board at apex level and Sports Associations at Zonal Railway's levels are functioning for promotion of sports in the Indian Railways. This includes recruitment of talented sportspersons, their training and participation in sports activities at Railways, National and International levels. When Railways sports persons are part of National terms in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.